



The Richard A. Buckner house situated on Buckner Hill as it appeared in March 2019 during the annual bloom.

Flowers on the Hill

Buckner Hill, overlooking Greensburg, draws countless visitors each spring with its sea of bright yellow March lily blooms. They have been there for as long as anyone can remember, yet no one knows exactly how the flower-covered hill came to be.

Richard Aylett Buckner was the original owner of the brick house at the very top of the hill, built between 1810 and 1825. He arrived in Green County from Virginia in 1803. During his lifetime, he was an attorney and politician, serving as state senator, congressman, and circuit court judge. He even ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1832.

By April 1941, the family of William Franklin Cantrell had owned the property for decades. That year, Easter Sunrise Service began in Greensburg. That first service, held at the peak of Buckner Hill, was attended by one hundred and twenty-five people. A ten-foot tall white



Green County Public Library Genealogy
Laura Johnson

cross stood surrounded by beautiful spring flowers. Citizens were asked to bring cut flowers to place around the base of the cross.

Each year, the Easter event was attended by several hundred people. All the churches in town took part in the nondenominational celebration. In April 1969, the service was moved from the picturesque hill to the town square. Many people missed the traditional setting among the flowers.

The red brick home that stands at the top of Buckner Hill has been changed over the years. Originally, it included six fireplaces, some of which have been removed. During the late 1800s, a triple-gabled roof was installed and in the early 1900s, a porch was built. A bathroom was added by the Milby family during a

remodel. Most recently, the roof has been altered again to a single-gable.

So, how did the March lilies get on Buckner Hill? Were they already growing there when the hill was selected as the location for the Easter services? Could the March lilies have started growing after the cut flowers were laid around the cross in 1941? We may never know the answers to these questions, but they certainly have no bearing on the beauty of the place.

If you have never seen the flowers on Buckner Hill, please visit next spring. The March lilies in full bloom are a glorious sight to behold that will keep you coming back each year.

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